NUMB. CCCCL.

The SPECTATOR.

------ Quærenda pecunia primùm
Virtus poſt nummos.

Wedneſday, Auguſt 6. 1712.

MR. SPECTATOR,

'ALL Men, through different Paths, make 'at the ſame common thing, *Money*; 'and it is to her we owe the Politician, 'the Merchant, and the Lawyer; nay, 'to be free with you, I believe to that alſo we are 'beholden for our *Spectator*. I am apt to think, 'that could we look into our own Hearts, we 'ſhould ſee Money ingraved in them in more live-'ly and moving Characters than Self-Preſervation; 'for who can reflect upon the Merchant hoiſting 'Sail in a doubtful Purſuit of her, and all Man-'kind ſacrificing their Quiet to her, but muſt per-'ceive that the Characters of Self-Preſervation '(which were doubtleſs originally the brighteſt) 'are ſullied, if not wholly defaced; and that thoſe 'of Money (which at firſt was only valuable as a 'Mean to Security) are of late ſo brightened, that 'the Characters of Self-Preſervation, like a leſs 'Light ſet by a greater, are become almoſt imper-'ceptible? Thus has Money got the upper Hand 'of what all Mankind formerly thought moſt 'dear, *viz.* Security; and I wiſh I could ſay ſhe 'had here put a Stop to her Victories; but, alaſs! 'common Honeſty fell a Sacrifice to her. This is 'the Way Scholaſtick Men talk of the greateſt 'Good in the World; but I, a Tradeſman, ſhall 'give you another Account of this Matter in the 'plain Narrative of my own Life. I think it pro-'per, in the firſt Place, to acquaint my Readers, 'that ſince my ſetting out in the World, which 'was in the Year 1660, I never wanted Money; 'having begun with an indifferent good Stock in 'the Tobacco Trade, to which I was bred; and 'by the continual Succeſſes it has pleaſed Provi-'dence to bleſs my Endeavours with, am at laſt ar-'rived at what they call a *Plumb*. To uphold my 'Diſcourſe in the Manner of your Wits or Philo-'ſophers, by ſpeaking fine things, or drawing In-'ferences, as they pretend, from the Nature of 'the Subject, I account it vain; having never 'found any thing in the Writings of ſuch Men, 'that did not ſavour more of the Invention of the 'Brain, or what is ſtiled Speculation, than of 'ſound Judgment or profitable Obſervation. I will 'readily grant indeed, that there is what the Wits 'call Natural in their Talk, which is the utmoſt 'thoſe curious Authors can aſſume to themſelves, 'and is indeed all they endeavour at, for they are 'but lamentable Teachers. And what, I pray, is 'Natural? That which is Pleaſing and Eaſy: And 'what are Pleaſing and Eaſy? Forſooth, a new 'Thought or Conceit dreſſed up in ſmooth quaint 'Language, to make you ſmile and wag your 'Head, as being what you never imagined before, 'and yet wonder why you had not; meer frothy 'Amuſements! fit only for Boys or ſilly Women to 'be caught with.

'It is not my preſent Intention to inſtruct my 'Readers in the Methods of acquiring Riches, that 'may be the Work of another Eſſay; but to exhi-'bit the real and ſolid Advantages I have found 'by them in my long and manifold Experience: 'nor yet all the Advantages of ſo worthy and va-'luable a Bleſſing, (for who does not know or i-'magine the Comforts of being warm or living at 'Eaſe? and that Power and Preheminence are 'their inſeparable Attendants?) but only to in-'ſtance the great Supports they afford us under the 'ſevereſt Calamities and Misfortunes; to ſhew 'that the Love of them is a ſpecial Antidote a-'gainſt Immorality and Vice, and that the ſame does 'likewiſe naturally diſpoſe Men to Actions of Piety 'and Devotion: All which I can make out by my 'own Experience, who think my ſelf no ways par-'ticular from the reſt of Mankind, nor better nor 'worſe by Nature than generally other Men are.

'In the Year 1665, when the Sickneſs was, I 'loſt by it my Wife and two Children, which 'were all my Stock. Probably I might have had 'more, conſidering I was married between 4 and 'and 5 Years; but finding her to be a teeming 'Woman, I was careful, as having then little a-'bove a Brace of thouſand Pounds to carry on my 'Trade and maintain a Family with. I loved them 'as uſually Men do their Wives and Children, and 'therefore could not reſiſt the firſt Impulſes of 'Nature on ſo wounding a Loſs; but I quickly 'rouzed my ſelf, and found Means to alleviate; 'and at laſt conquer my Affliction, by reflecting 'how that ſhe and her Children having been no 'great Expence to me, the beſt Part of her For-'tune was ſtill left; that my Charge being reduc-'ed to my ſelf, a Journeyman, and a Maid, I 'might live far cheaper than before; and that 'being now a childleſs Widower, I might perhaps 'marry a no leſs deſerving Woman, and with a 'much better Fortune than ſhe brought, which 'was but 800 l. And to convince my Readers that 'ſuch Conſiderations as theſe were proper and apt 'to produce ſuch an Effect, I remember it was the 'conſtant Obſervation at that deplorable Time, 'when ſo many Hundreds were ſwept away daily, 'that the Rich ever bore the Loſs of their Fami-'lies and Relations far better than the Poor; the 'latter having little or nothing before-hand, and 'living from Hand to Mouth, placed the whole 'Comfort and Satisfaction of their Lives in their 'Wives and Children, and were therefore incon-'ſolable.

'The following Year happened the Fire; at 'which Time, by good Providence, it was my 'Fortune to have converted the greateſt Part of 'my Effects into ready Money, on the Proſpect of 'an extraordinary Advantage which I was prepar-'ing to lay Hold on. This Calamity was very 'terrible and aſtoniſhing, the Fury of the Flames 'being ſuch, that whole Streets, at ſeveral diſtant 'Places, were deſtroyed at one and the ſame Time, 'ſo that (as it is well known) almoſt all our Citi-'zens were burnt out of what they had. But what 'did I then do? I did not ſtand gazing on the 'Ruins of our noble Metropolis; I did not ſhake 'my Head, wring my Hands, ſigh, and ſhed 'Tears; I conſidered with my ſelf what cou'd 'this avail; I fell a plodding what Advantages 'might be made of the ready Caſh I had, and 'immediately bethought my ſelf that wonderful

'Penny-

'Pennyworths might be bought of the Goods that 'were ſaved out of the Fire. In ſhort, with about '2000 l. and a little Credit, I bought as much 'Tobacco as raiſed my Eſtate to the Value of '10000 l. I then *looked on the Aſhes of our City, 'and the Miſery of its late Inhabitants, as an Effect of 'the juſt Wrath and Indignation of Heaven towards a 'ſinful and perverſe People.*

'After this I married again, and that Wife 'dying, I took another; but both proved to 'to be idle Baggages; the firſt gave me a great 'deal of Plague and Vexation by her Extravagan-'cies, and I became one of the By-words of the Ci-'ty. I knew it would be to no manner of Purpoſe 'to go about to curb the Fancies and Inclinations 'of Women, which fly out the more for being 'reſtrain'd; but what I cou'd I did. I watch'd 'her narrowly, and by good Luck found her in 'the Embraces (for which I had two Witneſſes 'with me) of a wealthy Spark of the Court-end 'of the Town; of whom I recover'd 15000 'Pounds, which made me Amends for what ſhe 'had idly ſquander'd, and put a Silence to all my 'Neighbours, taking off my Reproach by the 'Gain they ſaw I had by it. The laſt died about 'two Years after I marry'd her, in Labour of 'three Children. I conjecture they were begotten 'by a Country Kinſman of hers, whom, at her 'Recommendation, I took into my Family, and 'gave Wages to as a Journey-man. What this 'Creature expended in Delicacies and high Diet 'with her Kinſman (as well as I could compute 'by the Poulterers, Fiſhmongers, and Grocers 'Bills) amounted in the ſaid two Years to One 'hundred eighty ſix Pounds, four Shillings, and 'five Pence Half-penny. The fine Apparel, Brace-'lets, Lockets, and Treats, &c. of the other, ac-'cording to the beſt Calculation, came in three 'Years and about three Quarters to Seven hundred 'forty four Pounds, ſeven Shillings and nine Pence. 'After this I reſolved never to marry more, and 'found I had been a Gainer by my Marriages, and 'the Damages granted me for the Abuſes of my 'Bed, (all Charges deducted) Eight thouſand three 'hundred Pounds within a Triſle.

'I come now to ſhew the good Effects of the 'Love of Money on the Lives of Men towards 'rendring them honeſt, ſober, and religious. When 'I was a young Man, I had a Mind to make the 'beſt of my Wits, and over-reach'd a Country 'Chap in a Parcel of unſound Goods; to whom, 'upon his upbraiding, and threatning to expoſe 'me for it, I return'd the Equivalent of his Loſs; 'and upon his good Advice, wherein he clearly 'demonſtrated the Folly of ſuch Artifices, which 'can never end but in Shame, and the Ruin of all 'Correſpondence, I never after tranſgreſs'd. Can 'your Courtiers, who take Bribes, or your Law-'yers or Phyſicians in their Practice, or even the 'Divines who intermeddle in worldly Affairs, 'boaſt of making but one Slip in their Lives, and 'of ſuch a thorough and laſting Reformation? 'Since my coming into the World I do not remem-'ber I was ever overtaken in Drink, ſave nine 'times, one at the Chriſtening of my firſt Child, 'thrice at our City Feaſts, and five times at dri-'ving of Bargains. My Reformation I can attri-'bute to nothing ſo much as the Love and Eſteem 'of Money; for I found my ſelf to be extravagant 'in my Drink, and apt to turn Projector, and 'make raſh Bargains. As for Women, I never 'knew any, except my Wives: For my Reader 'muſt know, and it is what he may confide in as 'an excellent Recipe, That the Love of Buſineſs 'and Money is the greateſt Mortifier of inordi-'nate Deſires imaginable, as employing the Mind 'continually in the careful Overſight of what he 'has, in the eager Queſt after more, in looking 'after the Negligences and Deceits of Servants, in 'the due Entring and Stating of Accounts, in hunt-'ing after Chaps, and in the exact Knowledge of 'the State of Markets; which Things whoever 'thoroughly attends, will find enough and enough 'to employ his Thoughts on every Moment of 'the Day: So that I cannot call to Mind, that in 'all the Time I was a Husband, which, off and 'and on, was about twelve Years, I ever once 'thought of my Wives but in Bed. And, laſtly, 'for Religion, I have ever been a conſtant Church-'man, both Forenoons and Afternoons on *Sundays*, 'never forgetting to be thankful for any Gain or 'Advantage I had had that Day; and on *Saturday* 'Nights, upon caſting up my Accounts, I always 'was grateful for the Sum of my Week's Profits, 'and at *Chriſtmas* for that of the whole Year. It 'is true perhaps, that my Devotion has not been 'the moſt fervent; which, I think, ought to be 'imputed to the Evenneſs and Sedateneſs of my 'Temper, which never would admit of any Im-'petuoſities of any Sort: And I can remember, that 'in my Youth and Prime of Manhood, when my 'Blood ran briſker, I took greater Pleaſure in Re-'ligious Exerciſes than at preſent, or many Years 'paſt, and that my Devotion ſenſibly declined as 'Age, which is dull and unweildy, came upon me.

'I have, I hope, here proved, that the Love of 'Money prevents all Immorality and Vice; which 'if you will not allow, you muſt, that the Purſuit 'of it obliges Men to the ſame Kind of Life as 'they would follow if they were really virtuous; 'Which is all I have to ſay at preſent, only re-'commending to you, that you would think of 'it, and turn ready Wit into ready Money as faſt 'as you can. I conclude,

Your Servant,

Ephraim Weed.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane, on Friday next, being the 8th of Auguſt, will be reviv'd a Comedy call'd, The London Cuckolds. Ramble by Mr. Mills, Townly Mr. Husband, Doodle Mr. Johnſon, Wifeacre Mr. Bullock, Dafhwell Mr. Bowen, Loveday Mr Bullock jun. Aurelia Mrs. Bradſhaw, Peggy Miſs Willis: With the laſt new Mottice Dance by Mr. Prince and others. By Her Majeſty's Command no Perſon is to be admitted behind the Scenes.

For SALE by the CANDLE.

This preſent Wedneſday the 6th of Auguſt, at Loyd's Coffee-houſe in Lombard-ſtreet, at 4 in the Afternoon (only one Cask in a Lott) 100 Hogſheads of excellent New French Clarets, viz. Margaux, Obrion, and other of the beſt Growths of France, deep, bright, ſtrong, freſh, and of the true Flavour, neat and entire, imported by Meſſieurs Tourton and Guigieux directly from Bourdeaux, now in Vaults under the House of Mr. Bourne in Suffolk-lane near London-ſtone in Cannon-ſtreet, and near the Steel-yard in Thames-ſtreet. To be ſeen and taſted this Day till the Time of Sale. Note, The Buyers are deſired to appear punctually at the Hour appointed, the ſale being to be compleated without Adourning. To be ſold by Tho. Tomkins, Broker, in Seething-lane in Tower-ſtreet.

For SALE by the CANDLE.

On Thurſday the 14th Inſtant, at Garraway's Coffee-houſe in Exchange Alley in Cornhill, at 4 in the Afternoon, (only one Hhd in a Lott) viz 100 Hhds of excellent new French Bourdeaux Clarets of Obrion, and other of the beſt Growths and Qualities, genuine and intire Parcel, imported from Ireland, and juſt arrived by way of Briſtol by Land-Carriage, now in a Vault near the Gate of Sir William Humphry's in Mincing-lane in Fenchurch ſtreet. To be ſeen and taſted on Tueſday and Wedneſday the 12th and 13th from 9 to 1, and from 2 to 6, and all Thurſday as above, till the time of Sale. To be ſold by Tho. Tomkins, Broker, in Seething-lane in Tower-ſtreet.

At the old Warehouſe, is juſt now made up a freſh Parcel of Morning-Gowns for Men and Women of Brocades, rich Damasks, Sattens, Callicoes and Stuffs, with very ſuitable Linings, and will be ſold much cheaper than the Shops can afford, the Goods being bought of People that broke. Several pretend to ſell under the ſame Notion, but the greateſt Choice and beſt Pennyworths is at the golden Sugar-Loaf right againſt the Horſe at Charing-Croſs, with the neweſt ſort of Canvis and Quilted Petticoats.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in; as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings*, in the *Strand*.